(c) whether any National Tourism Policy has been framed, if so, its Salient features; and

(d) what action Government are taking about tourism awareness?

THE MINSITER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The first meeting of the newly constituted Board of Tourism Industry and Trade was held on 29.10.97.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Salient features of the draft National Tourism Policy formulated include creating awareness about Socio-economic benefits of tourism, diversification of tourism product, providing for peoples participation in the development and distribution of benefits of tourism, facilitating the development of a dynamic private sector in tourism industry, co-ordinating the efforts of different Government Departments and agencies, etc.

(d) The Government is involving Public Relations Agencies, Industry Associations and carrying out media campaigns to create awareness about tourism.

Facilities to Tourism Sector at Par with Industry

766. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of declaring tourism as industry, the facilities and concessions provided to industry are not being given to the ingredients of tourist industry in many states; and

(b) the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) Number of state Governments have already declared tourism as an industry providing necessary concessions and incentives which vary from State to State.

(b) The State Governments have been advised from time to time for extending necessary incentives/concessions.

Travel Circuits in Maharashtra

767. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some travel circuits in Maharashtra for intensive development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central funds have been earmarked for the purpose;

(d) if so, the detials thereof; and

(e) the role being palyed by State Government of Maharashtra in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) The travel circuit identified in Maharashtra for intensive development is Raigad Fort—Janjira Fort—Kuda Caves—Sirivardhan—Harihareshwar—Sindhudurg. Besides Ajente—Ellora in Aurangabad is identified as a Tourist destination for intensive development.

(c) to (e) The Department of Tourism do not earmark fund for assistance to different states. However financial assistance is given on the basis of specific proposals received from them as per guidelines and merits of each case. During the VIIIth Five Year Plan that Deptt. of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 273.22 lakhs for 12 projects in the circuit.

Tourist Inflow in Country

768. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 0.4% of total tourists in world come to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any Board has been formed to promote tourist inflow in country; and

(d) if so, what measures, it has suggested so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) The percentage share of India in the world tourist traffic druing 1996 was about 0.4. The inadequancies in the general level of infrastructure in the country, inadequate funds and low private sector involvement are primarily the reasons for low share of India in the world tourist traffic.

(c) and (d) The "Board of Tourism Industry and Trade" has been set up to advise the Government on various policy matters relating to tourism and to oversee the implementation of the National Strategy for Tourism Development. The Board in its first meeting approwed the draft National Policy on Tourism and formed a few sub-committees for indepth analysis of the key issues.

लद्दाख में पर्यटन का विकास

769. प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) लद्दाख क्षेत्र के विकास हेतु केन्द्रीय सरकार की क्या-क्या योजनाएं हैं;

(ख) लद्दाख क्षेत्र में पर्यटन के विकास हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने लद्दाख के मार्ग से कैलाश मानसरोवर की तीर्थयात्रा के लिए यह मामला चीन सरकार के साथ उठाया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में चीन सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार इस मुद्दे पर बातचीत करेगी?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री श्रीकान्त जेना): (क) और (ख) भारत सरकार, पर्यटन विभाग ने आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान लद्दाख क्षेत्र के लिए निम्नलिखित परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी है:—

1. सरचुर में तम्बू लगे आवास
2. आचीमथांग में पर्यटक परिसर
3. दुरबग में पर्यटक बंगला
4. कर्घा में पर्यटक परिसर
5. टी सोमोरारी झील में पर्यटक बंगला
6. कारगिल में पर्यटक बंगला
7. हेनिस पर्व / उत्सव
8. बांगोग झील में तम्बू लगी कोलोनियां
9. लामा यूरू में पर्यटक परिसर
10. टी सोमोरारी झील के लिए तम्बू की व्यवस्था
11. नूबरा घाटी में तम्बू लगी कालोनियां / आवास
12. लेह मनाली रोड पर स्थित सरचुर मे तम्बू लगे आवास
13. हेमिस म गोम्पास का नवीनीकरण
14. नुबरा में पर्यटक परिसर
15. लद्दाख पर्व
16. पेठब मोनास लेह का सौन्दर्यकरण
17. टी सोमोरारी झील में जम्मू एवं कश्मीर पर्यटन विकास संगठन द्वारा एक्वेटिक स्पोर्ट्स की व्यवस्था
18. चोग्लमसर, लेह स्थित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थय केन्द्र में साधना सुविधा

चालू वर्ष में लद्दाख के लिए निम्नलिखित परियोजनाओं को प्राथमिकता दी गयी है।

1. लेह में संगोष्ठी केन्द्र
2. लद्दाख पर्व / उत्सव

(ग) और (घ) सरकार ने लद्दाख में डेमचोक होकर जाने वाले एक अतिरिक्त तीर्थयात्री मार्ग खोलने की बात / प्रश्न को चीनी सरकार के साथ उठाया है। इस मामले को भारत और चीन के मध्य गठित संयुक्त कार्य दल की बैठक में(4-5 अगस्त, 1997 नई दिल्ली)